

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated November 14, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Claims 2, 3, 5-27 are pending. Claims 12-16 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 17 and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 19 and 26 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 5-11 and 27 are allowed. Claims 19-25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the pending claims at issue are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 17, 18 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Crow et al. '864. This rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 17 and 18 accordingly. Claim 26 now depends from allowable claim 19 as indicated by amendment.

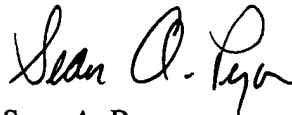
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not time filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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